

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, November 24. 1711.

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**I** Should have thought all the Words us'd, and the Displeasure of some People, which, they say, I have gain'd, in arguing against setting up the *Exorbitant Power* of the Emperor, an ill Purchase, if I were not sure I am pushing on the true Interest of *England, of Britain*, and of all the Protestant Confederates, the Interest of Religion and Liberty, and in short, the Interest of every Thing that is, or ought to be dear to us in this Nation.

*If, therefore, I do not make it appear,* That all those who are for thus setting up the *Austrian* Greatness, are blindly laying the Foundation, of the *Ruin and Destruction*

of the Protestant Interest in *Europe*, and are therefore Traytors to themselves, and to the Interest of Truth and Liberty in the World.

*If I do not prove,* That they are rejecting the most glorious Opportunity, of raising the Protestant Powers of *Europe* into an Establish'd Superiority over the *Papish*, so as that They, the *Papish*, shall never be able to carry on a Religious War in *Europe*.

*If I do not make it plain,* That they are putting an Opportunity out of their Hand, by their blinded Party-Prejudices, which can never, *otherwise excepted*, be put into their

their Hands again, to prevent the Oppressions either of *Austria* or of *France*.

If, I say, I do not do all this, against all possible Contradiction, I do nothing at all, and shall be content to be thought so of— And if this be true, you will blush for your Reproaching the Author of this, with Writing for *French Councils*, and for *Parties*, Ministry, or any one.

Upon this Occasion, however. I ask my Readers leave to make a short Digression relating to myself, as Pleading a Cause which some cannot receive.

He that will serve honest Men, must not promise himself that he shall not anger them; must be content, while he pushing on their Interest, to be out of their Favour, and must run the Venture of their doing him Right, when their Rectify'd Judgments come at long run to be farther enlighten'd.

I have been early exercis'd with this Usage from honest blinded Men, even from a Youth, which I am oblig'd to expose, not to charge them, but to defend myself: I had their Reproaches when I blam'd their Credulity and Confidence, in the Flatteries and Caresses of *Papery* under King *James*, and when I protested openly against the Addresses of Thanks to him, for his Illegal Liberty of Conscience, founded upon the Dispensing Power.

I had their Anger again, when, in print, I oppos'd at the utmost hazard, the taking off the Penal Laws and Test, and had the Discouragement to be told by some grave, but weak good Men, That I was a Young Man, and did not understand the *Dissenters* Interest, but was doing them harm instead of good; to which, when Time undeceiv'd them, I only return'd the Words of *Eliphaz* to *Job*, for which God never reprov'd him— Old Men are not always wise, neither do the aged understand Wisdom. *Job* .....

I had their utmost Displeasure again, at the first coming out of *The shortest Way with the Dissenters*, when they run away with it as they do now, without giving themselves

leave to search into Things— That the Book was really a Plot to destroy all the *Dissenters*— When Honest Col— W— undertook to be the Hangman, rather than the Author should want a pass out of the World; and Mr: S— at the Head of a whole Club at . . . . declar'd, if he could find me, he would deliver me up, and abate the Government the 30<sup>l</sup>. promised.

Yet in all these Things, the Gentlemen have done me Justice in their Turn; that is, Time and Truth has vindicated me, and Convinc'd them, and they have liv'd to own themselves mistaken in them all, and so they will do now.

He that will follow Principle and espouse Truth, must prepare to disoblige those he serves, and however discouraging, must be content to be condemn'd unheard, Censur'd unconfuted, and have all the Reproach which Prejudice, back'd with Ignorance, can invent— And I am prepar'd for this; nor shall I ever abate speaking open Truth, what Power or Party soever I provoke or displease, if I am but first satisfy'd and convinc'd that I am right; he that dares not own Truth, is unworthy to be own'd by the God of Truth; therefore, and because I am convinc'd, I not only speak Truth, but am defending the Interest, not of *Britain* only, but of all the Protestant Nations in *Europe*; therefore, I say, I go on, despising the Opposition of those, whose Interest I am sure I serve in it.

Now these very Gentlemen are under the Winkers of their own Prejudices again, and I must bear the Reproaches of their Ignorance, because I am not for setting up again the Power of the *German Emperor*, under whose Cruelty and Tyranny so much Protestant Blood has been spilt, and all the Delusion lies in this, That there is nothing to be done but this or *France*; God forbid *Europe* should be brought to this dreadful freight, that the Protestant Interest should be doom'd to the Yoke of one of two Tyrants.



Let us therefore Examine this Case to the bottom, and you will, in Time, have your Eyes open'd to other Things.

I ask the Readers Pardon for this Digression, and shall make amends for it, by making no more.

I proceed to my Enquiry in this Case; I have ask'd a Question already, which I am sure not a Man among my Opposers can answer; I beg leave to put it once more for them to consider of.

*What Necessity are we under to give the whole Spanish Monarchy, either to one House or to the other; either to Austria or to Bourbonne? And how does it follow, that to Argue against the first is to Argue for the last?*

I shall leave all my Antagonists at Liberty, and give them Time to Answer me, if they can — And I shall now, for the farther Explication of what I am upon, come to a plain Proposition, state the true Interests of the Protestant Powers in Europe, and how they may now, and perhaps never, if not now, be Establish'd with inexpressible Glory and Advantage.

Britain and Holland, or the Queen and the States General, are the Head of this great Confederacy; it is by their joint Power that France has been reduc'd, his Power broken, his Invincible Armies beaten, his Consummate Generals baffled; I join them together in it, curs'd be he that Attempts to part them in this Case; their Union and strict Confederacy having been the Cement and Band, which has ty'd the rest fast together; and therefore; for the laying a fair and firm Ground-Plot for what I am a coming to; I shall lay down one Maxim in Politics, which the Affairs of Europe for many Years past have made Essential, however the Debauch'd Principles of our late Statesmen guided them from it; I say has for many Years past made Essential to the Peace and Liberty of Europe, to the Interest, Safety, and Prosperity of the Prote-

stant Religion, and to the Encrease of Wealth, Commerce and Happyness of this Nation in particular, and this is,

*That it is the Undoubted Wisdom, the only true and effectual Security, and the very Foundation of Safety and Wealth to this Nation, and the whole Protestant Interest, That a firm, inviolable, constant, and sincere Amity and Union be for ever Maintain'd between Great Britain and the States General.*

If I could put it into the most Comprehensive Terms that Words could express, I could not bring it up to the due, a suitable height, which the Value and Necessity of such a Union requires; but as this is a Text which requires some Comment, I shall, with as much brevity as I can, explain it, and from this Foundation, shall advance some lesser Propositions, which have a Proportion of Truth in them all, and put together, Confirm and Illustrate, or I might indeed say, really make up the great Complication of Truth in the other.

1. From the first forming the Common Wealth, or Nation, which themselves call the *States*, we vulgarly the *Dutch*, their Interest and ours has been inseparable.
2. Many Times (I say nothing but what I'd prove) their Assistance has, next to Divine Providence, been our Deliverance from being Swallow'd up by *Popish*, *Exorbitant*, and *Tyrannical* Power, and sometimes, tho' not so often, ours has been so to them.
3. No Breach has ever been made in the Friendship and good Understanding between the *English* and the *Dutch*, but it has been a Judgment upon the Protestant Interest in general, a Wounding both Sides, and a Rejoycing to the *Popish* Interest of Europe.
4. For these two to fight, is for the Protestant Interest, as a Body, to turn *se-  
lo de se*, and to sheath a Sword in its own Bowels.

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5. The Interest of these two, cannot easily be made separately so strong, as to give the least Umbrage to one another, their only interfering Interest being that of Commerce, and that not so great as most People imagin.
6. Their United Interest, however great, cannot be Injurious to the rest of the Protestant Powers of Europe, so as that they should be jealous of their Power.
7. In their United Greatness, consists the Safety and Glory of the Protestant Nations of Europe.
8. Their United Strength has been the Foundation of the reducing France to

the State it is now in; has been the most effectual Vigour of the War, and may be made the effectual Security of the Peace.

9. No Peace can be Safe to the Protestant Interest, as the Interests of Europe now stand, if these two are not so strengthened, as to be able to hold the Ballance in their own Hands.

These Things are so extensive in their Nature, and contain so much the Rule of Protestant Influence in Europe, that I shall take the Liberty to Discourse of them more at large than this Paper will allow.

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